

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 18, 2020

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2116 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Thornberry,

As you begin consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, we urge to not include any provisions that undermine security operations on our southern border.

Last year, the House passed H.R. 2500, which included three provisions that would have made it extremely difficult for the Department of Defense (DOD) to defend our country. Section 1044 would have prohibited DOD from deploying servicemembers to the border to assist United States Customs and Border Protection Officials in border security operations. Sections 1046 and 2801 would have prohibited the use of DOD counterdrug programs and military construction funds to build a border wall, fence, or other physical barrier along the southern border.

Mexican drug trafficking organizations continue to threaten our Border Patrol agents and the livelihoods of our border ranchers. Securing our border is necessary if we are to ever stop the onslaught of drug and human trafficking, and terrorists on the border.

The construction of a wall is a crucial component to managing the humanitarian and security crisis at our southern border. It will help deter the drug cartels and the tens of thousands of people who risk their lives attempting to cross our border illegally.

The coronavirus outbreak will end; however, the threats at our southern border will remain for the long term if our inaction continues. We hope you understand the severity of this crisis and urge your opposition to *any* anti-border security measures.

Sincerely,

Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress

Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress

Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress

Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress

Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Ted Budd  
Member of Congress

Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress

Randy Weber  
Member of Congress

Michael Cloud  
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Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
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Ben Cline  
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Jody Hice  
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Chip Roy  
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Michael Guest  
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Steve King  
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Greg Gianforte  
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Ron Wright  
Member of Congress

Ken Buck  
Member of Congress

Jim Hagedorn  
Member of Congress